

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application.

Applicant appreciatively notes that claims 8-10 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant also appreciatively notes that claims 6-7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, claim 6 has been amended, and accordingly the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 and 11-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kowalsky et al. (6,905,008). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kowalsky is not prior art against the present application. Kowalsky was filed on August 11, 2003 and the present application has a priority date of December 17, 2002. For at least this reason, the anticipation rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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